

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1- 24. (canceled)

25. (allowed) A method for analysis of a collection of documents which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting a set of documents for analysis;
- b) preparing for electronic analysis of the documents by incorporating selected document sections into a database compatible format;
- c) selecting at least one document section;
- d) forming a list of analysis key words from one or more document sections into an initial word list;
- e) removing duplicate or nonessential words;
- f) standardizing word forms of the initial word list to a common form;
- g) setting a word list threshold;
- h) removing word forms from the initial word list that are present with a frequency less than the word list threshold;
- i) sorting the resulting word list by frequency
- j) forming a first word correlation matrix using the initial word list;
- k) counting the frequency with which a word pair is found in a collection of selected

documents;

- l) setting a first frequency count threshold;
- m) forming a first technology topics collection by selecting word pairs with frequency counts above the first frequency count threshold for each column in the first word correlation matrix;
- n) forming an additional word correlation matrix from the words in the collection of the first technology topics;
- o) forming an additional technology topics collection by associating word pairs from one or more first technology topics;
- p) optionally repeating steps n and o;
- q) counting, for each technology topic, the number of words appearing in each document of the document collection and optionally applying a weighting factor;
- r) assigning each document in the collection to an additional technology topic; and
- s) forming a standard picture of technology evolution by plotting individual documents on a graph with selected technology topics along one axis and a date along another axis.

26-27 (canceled)

28. (allowed) A method for making technology related business decisions comprising the analysis method of claim 25 further comprising examining the standard picture of technology evolution to identify patterns of technology development.

29. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein the first frequency count threshold is a word count.

30. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein the first frequency count threshold is a fraction of the maximum count in a selected column of the first word correlation matrix.

31. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein documents are assigned to a technology topic group using a weighting factor which emphasizes the contribution of the less frequently occurring words in a technology topic.

32. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein documents are displayed on an x-y plot.

33. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein the x-axis of the x-y plot is time-based.

34-35 (canceled)

36. (allowed) The method according to claim 35 wherein the documents in a technology topic are sorted based on the total number of documents within the technology topic.

37. (allowed) The method according to claim 33 wherein a document displayed on the

x-y plot can be highlighted to show documents containing selected words.

38. (allowed) The method according to claim 25 wherein the documents are displayed in a multi-dimensional plot.

39-59 (canceled).